

### ABSTRACT

An illuminated grab handle assembly for mounting to a surface is provided. The grab handle assembly includes a handle member and a base assembly receiving an end of the handle member and adapted to be mounted to the surface. An illumination source positioned between the base assembly and the handle is also included for illuminating the handle member. A solar cell is mounted to the base assembly for generating an electric current in response to the detection of an ambient light. A rechargeable battery is mounted to the base assembly and is electrically connected to both the illumination source and the solar cell wherein the electric current generated by the solar cell charges the rechargeable battery. A photoelectric cell for detecting an ambient light and generating an output signal corresponding to the detected ambient light is provided. A switch is also provided for receiving the output signal, the switch being operably connected to the illumination source, the switch adapted to open and close an electrical connection between the illumination source and the power source, wherein the switch opens and closes in response to the output signal received from the photoelectric cell.